

State of the Water Management System

Water Shortage Edition



Weekly Update

March 24 - 28, 2008



District News and Happenings

- [Spring into ACTION! April is Water Conservation Month](#)
- [Opinion/Editorial by Shannon Estenoz, Governing Board Member - Connected by Water, Across a Mostly Dry Land](#)
- [SFWMD Grant Supports Miramar Alternative Water Supply Projects](#)
- [SFWMD Funds Flood Control Project for Osceola County](#)

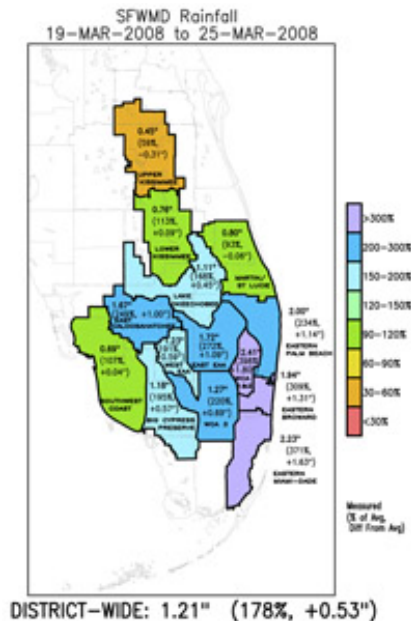
Mission Statement:

To underscore our commitment to keep you informed, we will send this update weekly. We encourage you to share this water resources information with your constituents.



South Florida Water
Management District
www.sfwmd.gov

System-Wide Overview



Click map for larger image

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 1.21 inches.
- Isolated to widely scattered showers are expected mainly to the southeast on Thursday and Friday. Scattered afternoon showers and isolated thunderstorms will then develop mainly near the coasts on Saturday.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is below average.

U.S. Drought Monitor:

The [Drought Monitor](#) focuses on broad-scale conditions and identifies general drought areas, labeling droughts by intensity. This week, areas of the District fall into four levels of intensity, ranging from normal to severe drought.

Lake Okeechobee:

Lake Okeechobee measured 10.23 feet NGVD 29 (8.93 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is 0.10 feet higher than it was a month ago. The current stage is 0.41 feet lower than it was a year ago and 4.20 feet below its historical average for this time of year.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:

During the last 7 days, the upper Kissimmee Basin received 0.45 inches of rainfall, and the lower basin received 0.76 inches. The discharge from Lake Kissimmee to the Kissimmee River was increased as part of a gradual recession in lake water level and to provide flow to the Kissimmee River. Releases from East Lake Tohopekaliga were decreased. In the upper basin, snail kites continue to nest on East Lake Tohopekaliga, Lake Tohopekaliga and Lake Kissimmee. A whooping crane continues to nest on Lake Kissimmee. The increased inflow from the upper basin is successfully inundating a portion of the floodplain in the Phase I area of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:

There was little change in average salinity of the St. Lucie Estuary over the past week. Based on the salinity tolerance of oysters, salinity conditions in the estuary are good. Average salinity increased or remained the same in the Caloosahatchee Estuary last week. Salinity conditions in the upper estuary east of Ft. Myers are still poor. Conditions downstream of Cape Coral are fair for oysters and good for seagrasses.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):

Rainfall in WCAs ranged from 1.07 to 2.7 inches. Water depths increased in most areas and especially in WCA-2A and WCA-3B. The increasing depths have made large areas inhospitable for wading bird foraging.

Everglades National Park:

Park wetland water levels displayed mixed trends, with a decrease of 0.6 inches in one area and an increase of 10.7 inches in another.

Note: This rainfall information is based on rain gauges within the Park. The map above captures District rain gauge data only.

Florida Bay:

Salinity increased slightly across Florida Bay.

Water Restrictions, starting January 15, 2008:



Click map for larger image

[Residents and businesses of Broward, Glades, Hendry, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties](#)

are limited to a one-day-per-week landscape irrigation schedule with two watering windows. Odd street addresses may irrigate lawns and landscapes on Mondays between 4:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Even street addresses may irrigate lawns and landscapes on Thursdays between 4:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Residents and businesses with more than five acres have expanded irrigation hours, between 12:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. on their designated irrigation day.

[For all locations of Collier and Lee counties, other than the City of Cape Coral,](#) the typical homeowner may choose one four-hour watering window on your designated irrigation day - either 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. or 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Because jurisdiction in certain counties is shared with other water management districts, the SFWMD has coordinated with these agencies to simplify implementation and enforcement. Residents of **Orange and Osceola counties** should adhere to any water restrictions set forth by the St. Johns River Water Management District. Residents of **Polk, Highlands, and Charlotte counties** should adhere to the water restrictions set forth by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. However, golf courses, nurseries, and agricultural users District-wide should follow SFWMD water use restrictions.

Did you know?

The South Florida Water Management District manages and protects the water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. Want to hear more? It would be our pleasure to meet with your organization to give a presentation and answer your questions. If interested, please contact Niki Spencer at 800-432-2045 or 561-686-8800, ext. 6004.

** SFWMD water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to manage Lake Okeechobee. Water releases from the lake are made in accordance with a federally authorized regulation schedule based on many factors such as time of year, current water conditions, predicted rainfall and lake level.*